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## **Sen. Allen's legislation assisting Mackinac Straits Hospital approved by Senate**

**LANSING** – State Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, announced that Senate Bill 991, granting authority status to the Mackinac Straits Hospital Authority, was unanimously approved by the Senate today.

“The passage of this bill by the Senate is great news for the residents of Mackinac County,” Allen said. “This legislation will help clear the way for the Mackinac Straits Area Hospital Authority to develop their new facilities.”

Sponsored by Allen, SB 991, would amend the Hospital Authority Act to allow for a group operating as an authority for more than 40 years to be considered an official authority.

Recently when applying for a U.S.D.A. loan to construct a new facility, the hospital discovered that one of the townships belonging to the authority could not legally be proven to be a member. SB 991 would correct this problem and allow for Mackinac Straits Hospital to continue with their development.

The legislation will now be sent to the House. Allen will be working with the House to keep things moving quickly in order to allow the hospital authority to receive the \$9 million loan from the U.S.D.A. as soon as possible.

“I look forward to working with the members of the House to keep this legislation moving to ensure that the residents of northern Michigan and the Eastern Upper Peninsula can continue to receive the top-notch health care services they have enjoyed for years,” said Allen.

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**Editor's note: Audio comments from Sen. Allen are available on the internet at:**

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/Allen/index.htm>